

Correspondence

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3 **Drugs may also induce allergic reactions**
4 **in sensitized individuals through**
5 **passionate kissing**
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7 *To the Editor:*

8 We greatly appreciated the article of Maloney et al¹ on
9 peanut allergen exposure through saliva during passionate
10 kissing or through sharing different utensils. The transport
11 of allergenic materials and consequent exposure by contact
12 with oral mucosa may be more common than expected. Maloney et al¹ found high levels of Ara h 1
13 in saliva only 5 minutes after the ingestion of 2 tablespoons
14 of commercially prepared peanut butter (PB) on a sandwich.
15 Because the collection of saliva was carried out
16 only twice (at 5 minutes and 60 minutes) after PB ingestion,
17 we believe that the amounts of Ara h 1 secreted in saliva
18 might be significantly different if collected at 5 minutes
19 or 60 minutes. The suggested methods (rubbing the tongue
20 over the teeth and along the gums and palate) to remove
21 residual PB and the sandwich particles from the mouth
22 might not be effective if applied without the use
23 of water. Consequently, it is likely that the amounts of
24 Ara h 1 detected in saliva after 5 minutes might contain
25 higher percentages of allergen originating from the oral
26 cavity than those collected at 60 minutes. In our opinion,
27 more aggressive removal of food residues from the oral
28 cavity by using water before the first salivary collection
29 and the use of multiple (4/5) collections within the first
30 60 minutes would have been a better approach to define
31 the kinetics of Ara h 1 in the saliva during this crucial
32 period of time without the risk of contamination.

33 We would also like to point out that kissing may lead to
34 allergic reactions to far more than food. We and others
35 have recently published 3 reports of oral allergy syndrome
36 and generalized urticaria in 3 drug-sensitized individuals a
37 few minutes after receiving passionate kisses from their
38 partners who had previously used the drug.²⁻⁴ In each case,
39 penicillin-derived antibiotics (bacampicillin and amoxycillin)
40 were involved. In the first case, a patient's husband
41 was taking 1200 mg bacampicillin twice daily and had
42 ingested a bacampicillin tablet about 2 hours before,² so
43 that the drug had reached an adequate concentration in
44 the oral mucosa and in salivary secretions.⁵ Similar
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50 pharmacokinetics and time of onset of symptoms has
51 been demonstrated for amoxycillin, the antibiotic responsible
52 for allergic reaction in the other 2 cases.⁶ In these
53 highly sensitized patients, even the small amount of antibiotic
54 delivered through the kiss was sufficient to elicit
55 the same symptoms as the usual oral administration,
56 even though the symptoms were less severe. Drug allergy
57 induced by kissing is rare, but may be clinically relevant.
58 It is also likely that the prevalence could be underestimated
59 considering the relatively high number of drug-intolerant
60 individuals who are sexually active.

61 Drug-induced allergy by passionate kissing should
62 have been mentioned in the article about peanut allergy
63 because it demonstrates the role of saliva as a vehicle for
64 transfer of sensitizing agents, as well as the lack of
65 contamination via the mouth. Physicians should be
66 aware that several sensitizing agents can cause these
67 problems.

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